

9 to 4:30



Prospects of Retirement Bill Good

By JOHN CRAMER

A House Civil Service subcommittee yesterday cleared two minor but highly controversial Federal employe bills which very possibly will get Congressional approval before adjournment.

They happen to be bills which are highly popular with members of Congress—even tho opposed by the Administration.

One would give Federal employes Civil Service retirement credit for past service in some 15 state and county co-op programs financed in part by Federal funds.

The other would give to Agricultural Stabilization Service county committee employes who transfer to the Federal service. It would let them credit their county service for pay and seniority purposes; let them count this service toward annual and sick leave benefits, and toward retention credits in layoffs.

SIMILAR

A bill similar to the first of these measures will be the subject of Senate Civil Service Committee hearings next week. It would give Federal employes retirement credit for past serv-

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ice in six specified Federal-state or Federal-county co-op programs, including service in the Rural Rehabilitation Corp., Agricultural Experiment Stations, vocational education, agriculture extension program, forest and watershed protection, and plant

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and animal pest and disease control.

Retiree Bill

Meantime, the long-shot pitch for a possible new omnibus retirement bill before Congress adjourns got under way yesterday before a House Civil Service sub-committee headed by Rep. Jimmy Morrison.

The sub-committee held hearings on a bill to provide "free" survivorship annuities for Federal employees who retire. At present, such an employee who wants to set up a survivorship annuity for his dependents must agree to let the first \$3600 of his own annuity be reduced by 2.5 per cent and the balance by 10 per cent. The House bill would eliminate this reduction.

As a second step in their pitch for an omnibus bill, employee leaders hope to get two amendments tacked onto the House measure:

- Would increase annuities of the 600,000 retired employees and survivors on the rolls of the Civil Service Retirement System on a sliding-scale formula, ranging from 9.0 per cent on smaller annuities to 3.0 per cent on larger annuities.

- Would incorporate Administration-sponsored proposals for re-financing the Retirement Fund by gradually increasing Government contributions to the Fund. Present contribution is 6.5 per cent of payroll. The Administration plan would increase this 0.5 per cent a year until the total contribution reached approximately 14.0 per cent.

COMBINATION

Should a combination bill of this type by any chance clear the House, Sen. Olin Johnston (D., S. C.), the Civil Service Committee chairman, has agreed to try to tack to it in the Senate the so-called 20-year

employees with 30 years service retire at age 55 without the present penalty which reduces their annuities 0.5 per cent for each year they're under 60.

The Senate Committee will hold the door open for possible action on a possible omnibus measure by conducting hearings next week on a retirement bill by Sen. Maurine Neuberger (D., Ore.). It would give already-retired employees the benefit of the liberalized formula of annuity computation approved in 1962 for future retirees.

Pay Bill

It's now said the President probably will sign the Federal pay bill Friday. One way or another he definitely will sign it. No one worked harder for it than he.

Also awaiting his signature is the so-called dual compensation bill setting up new rules to central the hiring and pay of military retirees who are appointed in the future to civilian Federal jobs.

Among other things, the bill modifies Veterans Preference Act provisions for non-combat disabled retirees with more than 20 years military service.

PROTECTION

Under it, they no longer will have preference protection against layoffs; no longer will they be able to count their military service (except wartime service) toward retention points for layoffs, or toward annual leave benefits.

- The AFL-CIO Letter Carriers have won another addition to the so-called drive-out agreement which reimburses city letter carriers for driving their own cars to and from the starting points of their routes. Post Office Department has agreed that carriers will be paid 25 cents each way when it's necessary to drive more than a half mile off the route for lunch or comfort stop.